

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans (preferred)

other Franciscan Mother House

2. Location

street and number 3725 Ellerslie Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore City

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

street and number 3725 Ellerslie Avenue telephone (410) 235-9277

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21218

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Hall liber SEB 1298 folio 121

city, town Baltimore Tax Map 9, Section 22, Block 3872A, Parcel 022 tax ID number N/A

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☒ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	1	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	2	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	1	0 objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	5	0 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 0	

7. Description

Inventory No. B-1360

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans occupies a 5-acre, lightly wooded site at 3725 Ellerslie Avenue in Waverly, a mid 19th to early 20th century suburb in northeast Baltimore City. The 1917 brick building has a symmetrical, modified H-shaped footprint with a 3- and 4-story main block, a 3-story north wing, and a 3-story south wing. A 3-story east wing extends from the main block. A 2-story brick hyphen extending to the south connects the orphanage to Chestnut Hill, a mid-19th century stone house used as a rectory (see MHT # B-1359). Francis J. Baldwin of the Baltimore firm Baldwin and Pennington designed the orphanage, which is loosely based on the Collegiate Gothic style. Interior alterations that took place beginning in 1948 do not impair its integrity. The building is in good condition. Also on the site are a 1917 laundry/heating plant, a ca. 1940 garage/storage shed, a cemetery, and a 1953 concrete block wall. A 1966 school formerly associated with the site is now on a separate tax parcel.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans is located at 3725 Ellerslie Avenue in Waverly, a mid 19th to early 20th century suburb located in northeast Baltimore City. The orphanage stands on the crest of a hill on a 10-acre, lightly wooded site with mature trees. A low concrete block wall constructed in 1953 forms the western boundary of the site, and a curvilinear drive leads from Ellerslie Avenue to the orphanage. A 1917 laundry and heating plant stands northeast of the building, a ca. 1940 garage/storage shed stands to the southeast, and a small cemetery lies to the south. Small grottos and statues can be found throughout the site.

St. Elizabeth's Home is a 1917 brick building with a symmetrical, modified H-shape. The main block has a 4-story, 5-bay center section flanked by 3-story, 8-bay sections. The main entrance to the building is in the center bay of the main block. The main block terminates in 3-story, 3-bay, glazed sun porches. The north and south wings are perpendicular to the main block and are 3-stories tall and 3-bays wide. A 2-story, 3-bay hyphen connects the south sun porch to the adjacent Chestnut Hill house (See MHT # B-1359). The 3-story east wing extends from the middle of the main block. The 1st story is a raised basement; the 2nd story is a piano nobile.

St. Elizabeth's Home has a concrete water table, brick bearing walls laid in Flemish bond, and a gable and hipped roof covered in slate shingles. With the exception of the round arches on the upper floors, the window openings have flat arches and stone sills. The wood casement and 1/1 windows are original. Details include a brick corbel table, parapeted gables with roundels, copper-clad gable dormers with half-round vents, and copper gutters.

The center section of the main block is 5-bays wide and projects forward about one foot. The three center bays project forward one additional foot. A broken double-flight stair meets at the main entrance landing in the center bay of the piano nobile (2nd story). The stair has concrete steps, a solid brick rail, and concrete coping. A segmental-arched opening beneath the stair leads to the raised basement. The main entry has a stone surround consisting of barrel-vaulted portico with cushion columns and wrought-iron tracery. A glazed fanlight tops the double wood doors. A niche above the entry shelters a statue of St. Elizabeth of Hungary that was brought from the previous orphanage at 317 St. Paul Street. A parapeted gable over the three center bays has an arcaded corbel table and a Celtic cross at its apex.

The east wing has a cruciform shape that reflects the footprint of the chapel on the 2nd story. The chapel has foliated Tudor arch window openings containing stained-glass windows. The chancel features a stained glass roundel.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Alterations to the exterior of St. Elizabeth's Home include the addition of the second story of the hyphen in 1947, addition of a 1-story sun room on the south end of the main block during the late-20th century, and addition of a screened porch on the roof of the new sun room.

When it opened in 1917, St. Elizabeth's Home had a center hall with dining rooms, a kitchen, classrooms, and playrooms in the main block, open plan dormitories in the north and south wings, and an auditorium and chapel in the east wing. Early photographs document that, with the exception of the chapel, the interior had very simple finishes. These finishes included wood or terrazzo floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and flat baseboards, chair rails, window casings, and door casings. The doors were either 5-panel or half-glass and had transoms. The sun porches had exposed brick walls and beadboard ceilings. St. Elizabeth's Home as constructed is far simpler than the original rendering proposed by Francis J. Baldwin. Baldwin's original design for St. Elizabeth's Home followed the Collegiate Gothic style. Although the design was greatly simplified, St. Elizabeth's retains some vestiges of the Collegiate Gothic style in its use of materials, its foliated Tudor arch windows, and its Gothic chapel.

The chapel contrasts with the simple finishes found throughout the building. Located on the 2nd story of the east wing, the chapel has a cruciform plan and features a vaulted ceiling with transverse, ridge, and wall ribs that end in carved corbels. The chapel also has foliated, Tudor arch, stained-glass windows, paneled wainscoting, and stained oak pews. A translucent, leaded-glass screen separates the chapel from the hall. Although the altar was originally located in the chancel, it has been moved to the north wall.

During the 1940s, as the number of children decreased and the number of Sisters increased, the south wing was converted from open plan dormitories to double-loaded corridors with Sisters' cells. The north wing was converted ca. 1960. Other interior alterations have included installation of wall-to-wall carpet, sheet vinyl flooring, and dropped ceilings.

OUTBUILDINGS

A 1917 laundry/heating plant stands northeast of the orphanage. The 1-story brick building has 1/1 windows, a flat roof, and a tall, octagonal chimney. The building has a concrete-block coal room projecting to the east at the basement level. A ca. 1940 garage/storage shed stands southeast of the orphanage. The 1-story, shed-roof building consists of a 4-bay, concrete-block garage with concrete block storage rooms to its north and east, and a ca. 1917 brick storage shed to its south. A cemetery for the Order lies in a shaded area south of the orphanage. The cemetery has simple headstones arranged in orderly rows and inscribed only with names and dates. The stones date from 1918 to the present.

The ca. 1840 stone house known as Chestnut Hill (B-1359) stands south of St. Elizabeth's Home.

8. Significance

Inventory No. B-1360

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1916, 1947, 1960

Architect/Builder Francis J. Baldwin

Construction dates 1916

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register☐ Maryland Register☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans reflects the development of orphanages in Baltimore. Constructed in 1917, St. Elizabeth's Home was a Roman Catholic institution that served African-American children. It was one of twenty-eight orphanages serving Baltimore during the early-20th century. Like other orphanages in Baltimore, St. Elizabeth's Home was a private institution segregated by religion and race. Although the orphanage closed in 1960, St. Elizabeth's Home has continued to serve as an educational institution.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

BACKGROUND

Origins of St. Elizabeth's Home

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans had its beginnings in 1877 when Mary Herbert, an African-American Roman Catholic living in a Baltimore City alley house, was abandoned by her husband and left as the sole caregiver for their disabled child. In order support herself and her child, Herbert began caring for the children of friends and neighbors while they went to work. There were no other provisions for child care, and parents who did not have an available friend or relative nearby had no place to leave their children. Herbert's nursery grew and unexpectedly developed into an orphanage when some parents failed to return for their children. It was not uncommon for impoverished, ill, or otherwise desperate parents to abandon their children when they could no longer care for them. In 1878, Father John Slattery, a Josephite priest,¹ offered aid from the charitable funds of the Roman Catholic Church, and Margaret Jenkins, a wealthy Roman Catholic woman, bought a house at 57 St. Paul Street to house the 35 children in Herbert's care. In 1881, in response to an appeal by Father Slattery, four nuns from the Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill, England arrived in Baltimore to manage the orphanage. The Sisters named the orphanage for St. Elizabeth of Hungary.²

¹ The Josephites, also known as the St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart for Foreign Missions, was founded England by Herbert Vaughan in 1866. In 1871, Vaughan and four other Josephites arrived in Baltimore, where, at the request of Archbishop Martin Spalding, they set up a ministry to African-American Catholics in the South (Spalding, 196).

² Spalding, 244; Gray, 6-7. St. Elizabeth of Hungary was a thirteenth century Hungarian princess and Franciscan Sister known for her personal care of the poor and sick.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill

The Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill grew out of the Oxford Movement of the mid-19th century, when many Anglican orders converted to Roman Catholicism. The Order's founder, Mary Eliza Basil, was an Anglican nun of the Society of St. Margaret and was working in the most impoverished neighborhoods in London when she converted to Roman Catholicism in 1868. She became Mother Mary Francis of a new Order of Franciscan Sisters and moved the Order to Mill Hill, London in 1870.³

The Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill had a close relationship with Father Herbert Alfred Vaughan, the priest who founded the Josephites and guided Mother Mary Francis through her conversion to Roman Catholicism. In 1881, Father Vaughan met with Archbishop James Gibbons and Father John Slattery of Baltimore, and together they petitioned Mother Mary Francis to send a group of Franciscan Sisters as missionaries to the African Americans of Baltimore. Four Franciscan Sisters left Mill Hill and sailed to Baltimore in December 1881.⁴

The First St. Elizabeth's Homes

St. Elizabeth's Home at 57 St. Paul Street was a 4-story building that was ample for the 35 five children that moved into it in 1878. The orphanage continued to grow quickly, however, and in 1889, Margaret Jenkins donated another house at 2226 Maryland Avenue to house the convent, novitiate, and some older children. In 1895, the orphanage left 57 St. Paul Street for a larger building at 317 St. Paul Street.⁵ Still, annual reports from the turn of the century emphasize chronic overcrowding and the inability to isolate the sick. Mortality rates for the years 1910-1916 (by which time there were more than 300 children) ranged from 8.3% to 22%, with mumps and chicken pox dominating infectious diseases and tuberculosis and malnutrition dominating chronic diseases.⁶ The doctor at the time reported:

Proper isolation facilities for the infectious diseases are particularly necessary in a colored institution, as there is no provision in this community for a hospital for infectious diseases for the colored race.⁷

In 1915, St. Elizabeth's Home at 317 St. Paul Street suffered a fire, and the Sisters learned that the building was in the way of a proposed widening of St. Paul Street. In 1916, with the money from fire insurance and the City's purchase of the building, the Sisters bought two tracts of land in then-rural Waverly called Pen Lucy and Chestnut Hill.⁸ On this land, they constructed the current St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans.

³ Gray, 1-6.

⁴ Gray, 1-6.

⁵ Gray, 7-8.

⁶ "35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916)

⁷ "35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916)

⁸ Gray, 9.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOME FOR FEMALE COLORED ORPHANS

The Building

In 1916, Mother Mildred of St. Elizabeth's Home commissioned Francis J. Baldwin of the Baltimore firm Baldwin and Pennington to prepare plans for the new building in Waverly.⁹ Baldwin produced a sketch that depicted a high-style Collegiate Gothic stone building.¹⁰ St. Elizabeth's Home as built, however, was both enlarged and simplified. The H-shaped building allowed for maximum cross ventilation. The main block and east wing had center passages with interior door openings aligned with window openings in order to promote air circulation. The north and south wings were open dormitories with no interior partitions to interrupt the flow of air. This design, along with the building's siting on top of a hill, reflects the early 20th century belief that ample light and air were crucial to health and to the prevention of disease.

The new St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans opened in 1917. The 1st floor (ground) housed classrooms in the north wing, classrooms and the kitchen in the main block, the Sisters' dining room in the south wing, and a large dining room/auditorium in the east wing. The 2nd floor housed the girls' dormitory in the north wing, laundry, showers, and classrooms in the main block, Sisters' cells in the south wing, and the chapel in the east wing. The 3rd floor housed the boys' dormitory in the north wing,¹¹ playrooms in the main block, Sisters' cells in the south wing, and bedrooms for lay Franciscans in the east wing.¹² The top floor housed the nursery.¹³

Comparison of St. Elizabeth's Home with two other Baltimore orphanages reveals that the design and siting of the new building reflected prevailing philosophies of the late-19th century rather than the latest thinking of the early 20th century. Orphanages in the 19th century were typically based on the congregate plan with all children housed in single building. This system, which fostered central, hierarchical control, offered administrative economies of scale. The Hebrew Orphan Asylum (1876) and the Samuel Ready School (1887) incorporated congregate plan facilities situated in rural locales. The Hebrew Orphan Asylum opened in the 1870s in a former almshouse. In 1876, the orphanage moved to a new building on the outskirts of Baltimore City. The new building had a T-shape, and like St. Elizabeth's Home, featured center passages and open dormitories segregated by sexes. The new Hebrew Orphan Asylum occupied an entire block and had playing fields, gardens, and farm animals. The Samuel Ready School, a Protestant orphanage for girls, opened in 1887 on a sixteen-acre estate called "Belmont." The mansion on the site housed classrooms and dormitories and was enlarged as the number of residents grew. Residents were free to roam the surrounding gardens, pastures, and woods.¹⁴

⁹ Francis J. Baldwin was the son of noted Baltimore architect Ephraim Francis Baldwin, founder of the firm Baldwin and Pennington. Ephraim Francis Baldwin died in January of 1916, and Mother Mildred commissioned Francis J. Baldwin for the design of St. Elizabeth's in May of 1916. The firm Baldwin and Pennington dissolved in 1918.

¹⁰ "Fine Building, To Cost \$150,000, For St. Elizabeth's Home." *The Baltimore News*. May 12, 1916.

¹¹ Despite its title, St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans always housed boys as well.

¹² Lay Franciscans were women who participated in the life of the convent but did not take vows. Lay Franciscans generally performed manual tasks such as cooking and cleaning.

¹³ From an interview with Sister Mary Gray, May 14, 2003.

¹⁴ Descriptions of the facilities can be found in Zmora, 72-75.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

By the early 20th century, orphan asylums increasingly favored the cottage plan. This system utilized small "cottages" housing six to 30 children. Proponents argued that the cottages more closely resembled a domestic, family setting than the congregate facilities did. Cottage plan institutions also could expand more easily and cheaply than congregate facilities could. The Hebrew Orphan Asylum moved to a new facility made up of cottages in the early 1920s.¹⁵

Although it was constructed in 1916, less than a decade before the Hebrew Orphan Asylum moved into a new cottage plan facility, St. Elizabeth's held to the congregate plan. While the congregate plan promoted the structured environment and hierarchical control favored by the Roman Catholic Church, it was also consistent with the particular circumstances at St. Elizabeth's. The insurance settlement and city condemnation fees provided the Order with sufficient funds to construct the more expensive congregate facility. Moreover, the congregate plan was a more efficient facility for housing the multiplicity of functions that racial segregation imposed on St. Elizabeth's: infant/foundling care, medical and hospital services, isolation of contagious children, education, and social services.

The Residents of St. Elizabeth's Home

As was true in other orphanages in Baltimore, not all residents of St. Elizabeth's Home were orphans. Mother Mildred reported in the annual report of 1916:

Temporary shelter is still provided for the little ones whom parents are compelled to surrender for a time through a siege of sickness or unemployment, and mothers themselves are received with their children for short periods.¹⁶

Of the 98 children received by St. Elizabeth's Home in 1916, 43 were committed by the Maryland Counties, 29 by their families, 20 by Baltimore City, and 6 by charitable organizations.¹⁷ In later years, as recalled by Sister Mary Gray, residents were committed to St. Elizabeth's home either due to abandonment or family problems. Many were brought by Baltimore City police.¹⁸ Sibling groups were not uncommon: at one point St. Elizabeth's Home sheltered eleven children from the same family.¹⁹

By comparison, orphanages for white children in Baltimore tended to have more children voluntarily placed by their families. For the period 1887-1890, the Dolan Home (Roman Catholic), Hebrew Orphan Asylum, and Samuel Remy School had a combined 79.9% of their children committed by family members (0.8% were unknown, 13.9% were committed by courts or other institutions, and 5.4% by placing societies). Poverty was overwhelmingly the leading reason children were sent to orphanages.

Although officially titled "St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans," the orphanage had always accepted boys. The 1924 annual report states:

¹⁵ Zmora, 73-74.

¹⁶ "35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916)

¹⁷ Numbers taken from "35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916)

¹⁸ Interview with Sister Mary Gray, May 14, 2003. Sister Mary Gray arrived at St. Elizabeth's Home in 1947.

¹⁹ "Summary of Work, St. Elizabeth's Home, October 1947 - May 1953."

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

Because there are no institutions similar to the Home in Maryland, it is necessary for us to accept boys up to four years of age. . . . When the boys reach the age of seven years, they should leave the home, but as there is no other institution to which they can be sent, this question is still to be solved.²⁰

The question was never solved, and St. Elizabeth's Home continued to accept boys. Like girls, boys at St. Elizabeth's Home were allowed to stay until age 16 or 18, at which time they went to work.

Education and Training

Residents of St. Elizabeth's Home received basic grade school education, religious education, and domestic science training. According to Mother Mildred in 1916:

When their age permits, children are required . . . to attend class, where instruction is given in the subjects of an elementary school course, domestic science continuing to receive special attention. On reaching suitable age, most of the children are still sent to service, or are returned to homes, where rigid investigation shows progress toward rehabilitation.²¹

By the 1940s, St. Elizabeth's Home taught children from kindergarten through third grade. Most older children attended Roman Catholic schools. Some attended public vocational or high schools.²² Although St. Elizabeth's Home was a Roman Catholic institution, only those children with a Roman Catholic parent or with written permission from a parent could participate in First Communion and Confirmation.²³

Life After St. Elizabeth's Home

Most residents of St. Elizabeth's either returned to their families or went to work. In 1916, 31 children were returned to their parents, 20 went to work, four moved to other institutions, and two were adopted.²⁴ It is likely that even those children who returned to their parents were quickly sent to work, as even a young teenager could get a menial job and bring extra income to a family. These patterns are consistent with those found in other orphanages in Baltimore.

THE CLOSING OF ST. ELIZABETH'S HOME

St. Elizabeth Home continued to house more than 300 children well into the 1920s.²⁵ Foster care began to replace orphanages during the early 20th century, although Catholic orphanages tended to operate longer and use foster care

²⁰ "43rd Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home." (1924)

²¹ "35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916)

²² "Summary of Work, St. Elizabeth's Home, October 1947 - May 1953."

²³ "Summary of Work, St. Elizabeth's Home, October 1947 - May 1953."

²⁴ "35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916)

²⁵ "43rd Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home." (1924)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

less frequently.²⁶ Still, numbers dropped dramatically: St. Elizabeth's Home had only 68 residents in 1947, 83 in 1950, and 114 in 1953.²⁷ As numbers diminished, orphanages were closed and combined. Finally, in 1960, all children under the care of the Archdiocese of Baltimore were moved to the new Villa Maria home in Dulaney Valley.²⁸ In 1961, St. Elizabeth's School for Special Education opened on the first floor of St. Elizabeth's Home.²⁹ The school moved to a new building on north end of the site in 1966 where it operated until 1998.³⁰ St. Elizabeth's Home was also used from 1962 to 1968 as a residential high school, known as Regina Coeli Academy, for girls entering the novitiate.³¹ As the sisters who once operated St. Elizabeth's Home and School have aged, parts of the building have been converted for nursing care. The 1966 St. Elizabeth's School, now on a separate tax parcel, continues to house educational programs.

²⁶ Zmora, 188-189.

²⁷ "Summary of Work, St. Elizabeth's Home, October 1947 – May 1953."

²⁸ Spalding, 389.

²⁹ "St. Elizabeth's Home." (1965)

³⁰ "St. Elizabeth's School As It Will Look in September." *News American*, June 13, 1966; Interview with Sister Mary Gray, May 13, 2003.

³¹ "St. Elizabeth's Home." (1965)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. B-1360

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10.736
Acreage of historical setting About 15
Quadrangle name Baltimore East, MD Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans corresponds to the boundary for Baltimore City Tax Map 9, Section 22, Block 3872A, Lot 022. The 10.736-acre lot is bounded on the west by Ellerslie Avenue, on the north by the alley and rear property lines behind Argonne Drive, on the east by the alley and rear property lines behind Elkader and Rexmere Roads, and on the south by the alley and rear property lines behind Chestnut Hill Avenue. This lot comprises the remainder of the property acquired by the Franciscan Sisters for St. Elizabeth's Home in 1916.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Julie Darsie

organization Betty Bird & Associates

date June, 2003

street & number 2607 24th St. NW, Suite 3

telephone (202) 588-9033

city or town Washington, D.C.

state N/A

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1360

Name St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"35th Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home of Baltimore City for Colored Children." (1916) Baltimore: St. Mary's Industrial School, 1917. Maryland Historical Society.

"43rd Annual Report of St. Elizabeth's Home." (1924) Franciscan Mother House Archives, Baltimore.

"Fine Building, To Cost \$150,000, For St. Elizabeth's Home." *The Baltimore News*. May 12, 1916.

Gray, Sister Mary. "Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore: A Brief History, 1868-1999." Franciscan Mother House Archives, Baltimore.

Historic Photographs. Franciscan Mother House Archives, Baltimore.

Interview with Sister Mary Gray, Archivist of Franciscan Mother House, Baltimore. May 14, 2003.

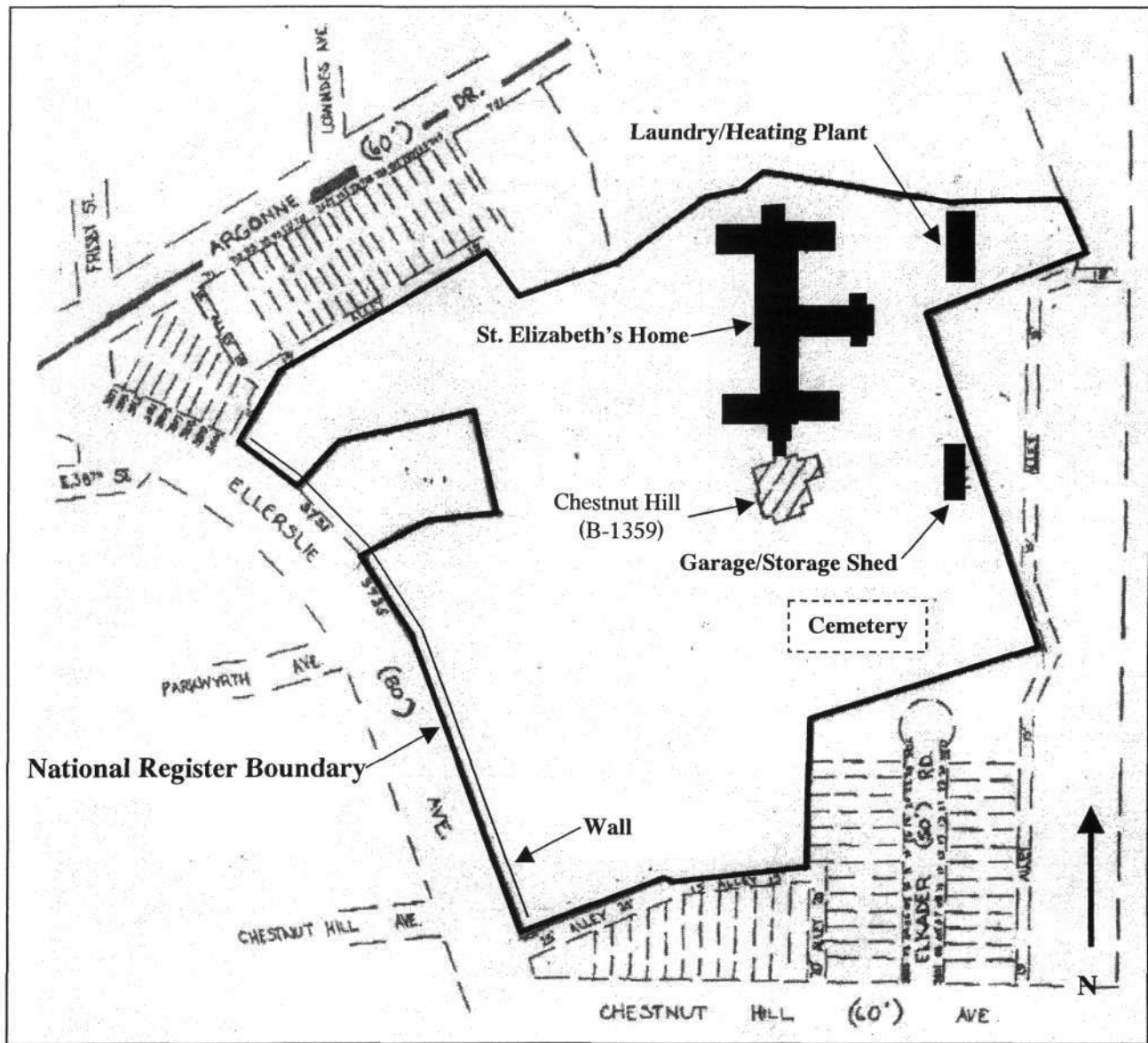
"St. Elizabeth's Home." April 1965. Franciscan Mother House Archives, Baltimore.

"St. Elizabeth's School As It Will Look in September." *News American*, June 13, 1966.

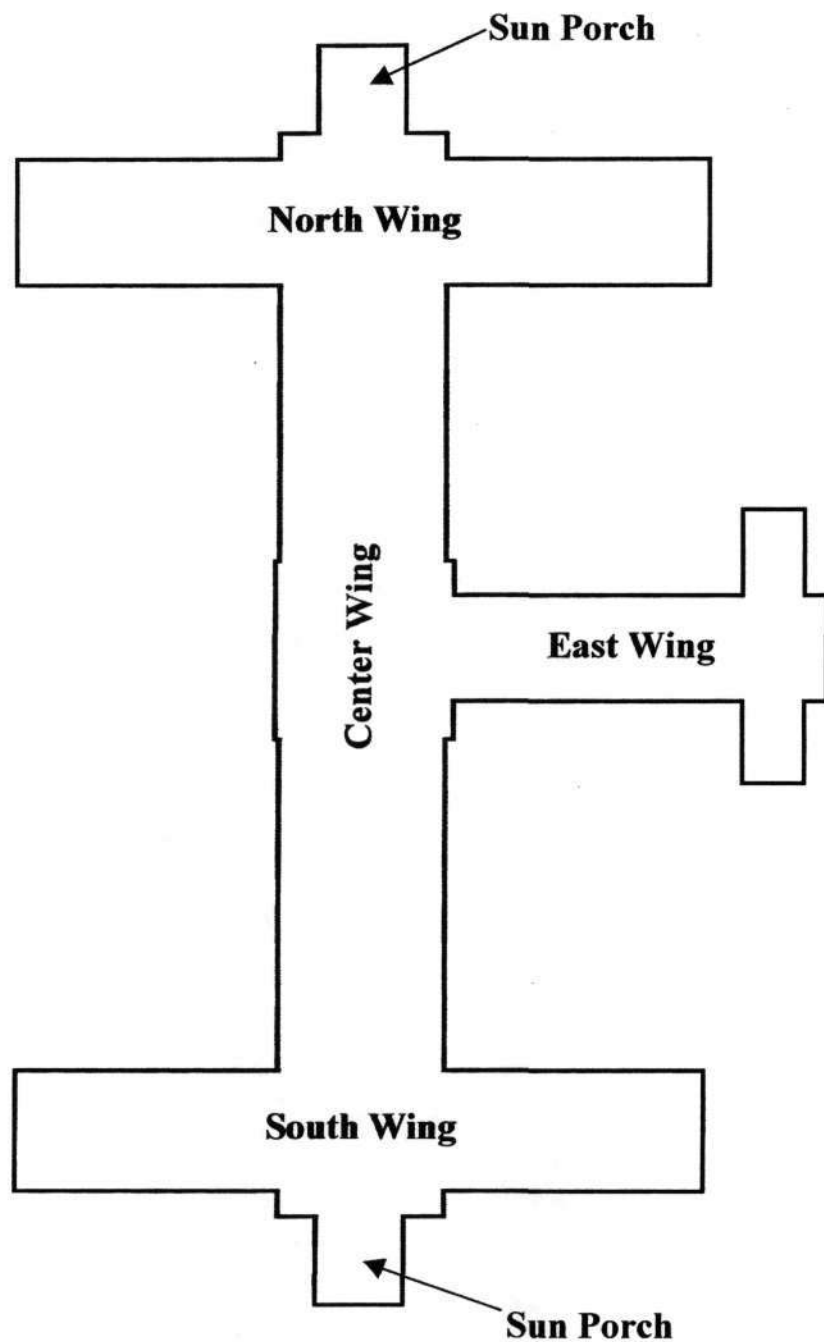
Spalding, Thomas W. *The Premier See: A History of the Archdiocese of Baltimore*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989.

"Summary of Work, St. Elizabeth's Home, October 1947 – May 1953." Franciscan Mother House Archives, Baltimore.

Zmora, Nurith. *Orphanages Reconsidered: Child Care Institutions in Progressive Era Baltimore*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994.



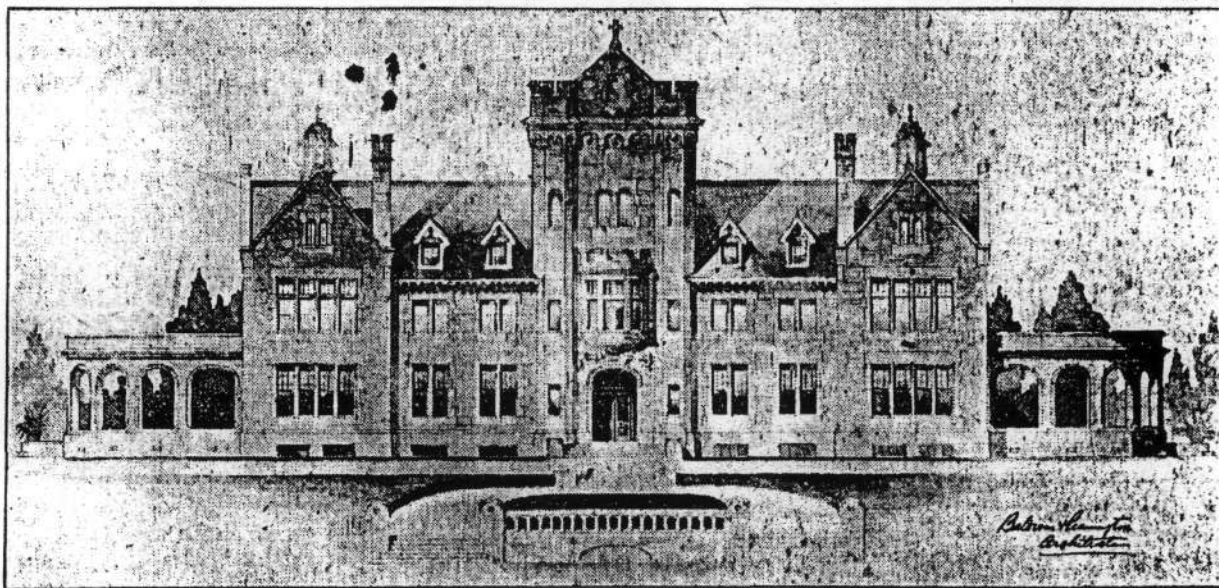
Site Plan and National Register Boundary
 St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans (B-1360)
 Baltimore City, Maryland



Building Layout

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans (B-1360)
Baltimore City, Maryland

Fine Building, To Cost \$150,000, For St. Elizabeth's Home



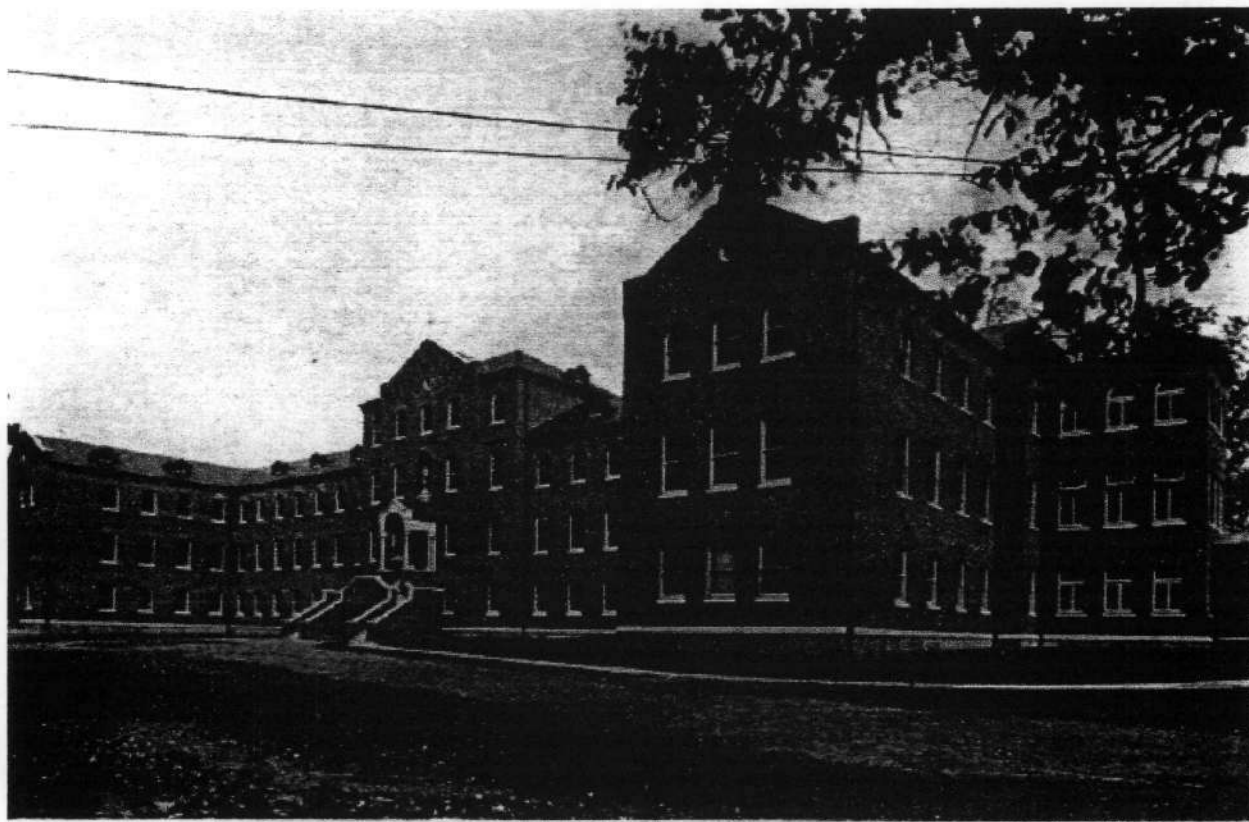
St. Elizabeth's Home, an institution devoted to the care of colored children, has bought the former Pen Lucy School property, near the Old York road, and will improve the site with an imposing stone building. Mother Mildred, superioress of the Order which conducts the Home, has commissioned Frank Baldwin of the architectural firm of Baldwin & Pennington to prepare the plans. Above is the front elevation of the main structure reproduced from a sketch made by the architect.

1916 rendering of proposed St. Elizabeth's Home

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans (B-1360)

Baltimore City, Maryland

Source: *Baltimore News*, May 12, 1916



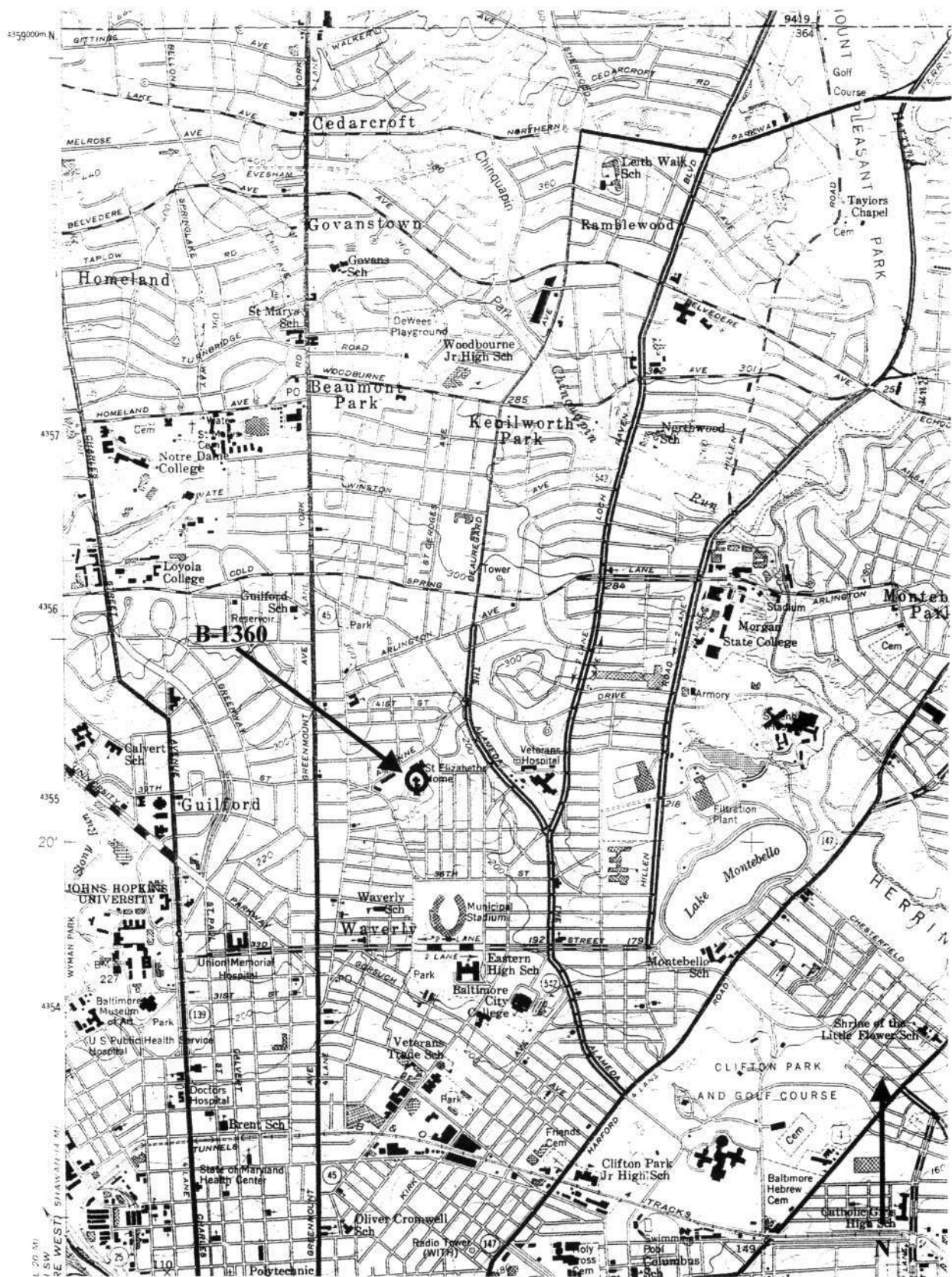
ST. ELIZABETH'S HOME, CHESTNUT HILL AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MD.

1921 image of St. Elizabeth's Home

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans (B-1360)

Baltimore City, Maryland

Source: www.mdhistoryonline.net/mdmedicine/hospitals



St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans (B-1360)

Baltimore City, Maryland

Baltimore East, MD Quadrangle



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

View toward northeast showing center
wing (left), south wing (center), and
sun porch and hyphen (right).

1 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoashlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

View toward northeast showing center wing
and corner of south wing (right).

2 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

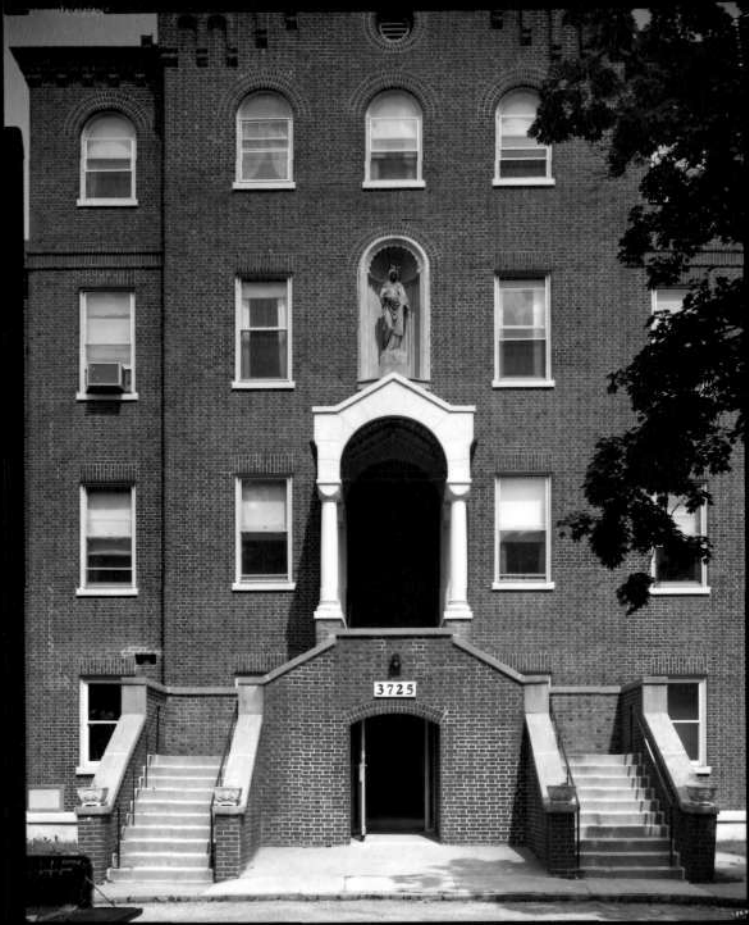
Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

Center block of center wing, west elevation.
View to E

3 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

Detail of main entry on west elevation

View to E

4 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

View toward northeast showing north wing
(left) and part of center wing (right).

5 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

NE Corner showing North Wing (left) and
sun porch (right). View to SW

6 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Heacklander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

View to north showing east elevation of
south wing (left), east elevation of center
wing (center), and south elevation of
east wing (right).

7 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

View to west showing south wing (left)
south half of center wing (center), and
east wing (right).

8 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoashlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

View from center wing east into chapel
vestibule

9 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoachlander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

West wall of chapel vestibule

10 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoacklander Davis Photography
June 2003

MD SHPO

Interior view from chapel vestibule into chapel.
11 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoacklander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

Interior of chapel (east wing). Looking west
from chapel.

12 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Judy Davis for Hoacklander Davis Photography

June 2003

MD SHPO

Typical cell

13 of 28



B-1360

Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

West elevation of hyphen, View to W

14 of 28

9730211 N N 22



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans

Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

East elevation of hyphen, View to SW

15 of 28

9730211 N N 22



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

7/03

MD SHPO

1st floor interior of hyphen, view to north
ile of 28

1550211 N-2 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Betty Bird

454 0211 N-1 N 12

6/03

MD SHPO

Cemetery, View to NW

17 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland
Betty Bird

454 0211 N-1 N 22

6/03

MD SHPO

Garden with statue of Jesus, located southwest of
St. Elizabeth's Home.

18 of 28



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans

Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/23/1980

MD 1514PO historic photo

Ca. 1918 historic photograph of chapel

19 of 28

21 N 1-N 1120226



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans

Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of chapel

20 of 28

9230211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of first floor parlor

21 of 28

9230211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans

Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of ground floor classroom

22 of 28

9730211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates
6103

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of dining room,
probably ground floor.

23 of 25

9730211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of top floor dormitory
24 of 28

9730211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates
6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of nursery
25 of 28

9730211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of nursery
26 of 28

9750211 N-1 N 22



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates
6/03

MD SHPO

Undated historic photograph of toddler's dining room
27 of 28

9230211 N-1 N 12



B-1360

St. Elizabeth's Home for Female Colored Orphans
Baltimore City, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates
6/03

MD SHPO

Undated photograph of boys' playroom in sun porch
28 of 28

9730211 N-1 N 12